

attached to a steroid, to a head group of a sphingolipid or to a head group of a lipid having at least two chains, each chain comprising at least 14 carbon atoms in length, and wherein each independently said chain is selected from the group consisting of acyl, alkyl or alkenyl, wherein incorporation of the probe at the surface is substantially not altered upon binding or dissociation of the species at the surface and

observing a change in a fluorescent property of said fluorophore retained at the surface upon binding or dissociation of said species at said surface.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

34. (Amended) A method for determining binding of a species at a polymer surface having a local environment at a given pH or surface potential, wherein said binding is effective to alter said pH or potential, the method comprising:

incorporating at said polymer surface a pH- or potential-sensitive fluorophore wherein incorporating the fluorophore at the surface is substantially not altered upon binding or dissociation of the species at the surface, and

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observing a change in a fluorescent property of  
said fluorophore retained at the surface upon binding or  
dissociation of said species at said surface.